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***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

*Customer No.* 23643 }  
 }  
*Group:* 1764 }  
 }  
*Confirmation No.:* 9235 }  
 }  
*Application No.:* 10/692,840 }  
 }  
*Invention:* APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR }  
 OPERATING A FUEL REFORMER }  
 SO AS TO PURGE SOOT THEREFROM }  
 }  
*Applicant:* Rudolf M. Smaling et al. }  
 }  
*Filed:* October 24, 2003 }  
 }  
*Attorney* }  
*Docket:* 9501-70665 }  
 }  
*Examiner:* Kaity V. Handal }

**DATED: JANUARY 10, 2007**

**AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 12, 2006, please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.